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It covers (1) U.S. Federal government documents, especially those from executive branch departments and those from the Congressional branch - - Committees, the U.S. General Accounting Office, and the Congressional Budget Office; (2) policy briefs from major private think tanks, especially those in Washington; and (3) major reports from national professional associations. A few new high quality, high relevance think tank-sponsored books are also listed.

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Reports

Item#1

Beijing Unflustered by Cool Ties With Seoul. YaleGlobal. Scott W. Harold. August 14, 2012.

China displays keen indifference to improving relations with South Korea. South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade has set up a chat-room to solicit public input on improving ties, but the author, is pessimistic about new foreign-policy approaches. He lists wide policy differences. South Korea hopes for eventual reunification with North Korea while China, worried about a South-led unification, overlooks North Korean belligerence, supporting the status quo as a means toward stability. History is also being invoked by Beijing adding to Seoul's concern. In June, China claimed that the Great Wall extended farther than previously thought, which could extend its ancient border into the Korean Peninsula. And quarrels over fishing grounds have long been a source of contention. South Koreans, however, tend to blame their own government for the icy relations, Scott reports. With South Korea's leading presidential candidates ready to try more outreach, China won't have to change much at all.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/beijing-unflustered-cool-ties-seoul> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#2

Gender and Well-Being Around the World. Brookings Institution. Carol Graham and Soumya Chattopadhyay. August 20, 2012.

There is a wide body of research aimed at better understanding differences across gender in welfare outcomes, and the implications of those differences - in particular the extent to which female outcomes are disadvantaged - for economic development. Women's rights have improved in general in the past few decades, but there are large differences across regions of the world and across countries within them. These differences, in turn, may have implications for the way in which these countries and regions develop.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2012/8/08%20gender%20well%20being%20graham/08%20gender%20and%20well%20being%20graham> [PDF format, 16 pages, 194 KB].

Item#3

How Raising the Federal Minimum Wage Would Help Working Families and Give the Economy a Boost. Economic Policy Institute. Doug Hall and David Cooper. August 14, 2012.

Over the past year, increasing attention has focused on the prevalence and growth of income inequality in the United States. While soaring incomes at the top of the income distribution have played a large role in these trends, so too has the failure to ensure that lower-income workers earn a fair wage.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.epi.org/files/2012/ib341-raising-federal-minimum-wage.pdf> [PDF format, 19 pages, 852.22 KB].

Item#4

How the Presidential Candidates Use the Web and Social Media: Obama Leads but Neither Candidate Engages in Much Dialogue with Voters. Pew Project for Excellence in Journalism. August 15, 2012.

On the eve of the conventions, Barack Obama holds a distinct advantage over Mitt Romney in the way his campaign is using digital technology to communicate directly with voters. The Obama campaign is posting almost four times as much content and is active on nearly twice as many platforms, according to the study.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.journalism.org/sites/journalism.org/files/DIRECT%20ACCESS%20FINAL.pdf> [PDF format, 33 pages, 1.55 MB].

Item#5

How Weibo Is Changing China. YaleGlobal. Mary Kay Magistad. August 9, 2012.

Weibo, China's microblog that's celebrating its third anniversary this month, offers a national platform for ordinary citizens to hold the powerful to account. In an instant, an ordinary citizen can launch a public debate or shame government and corporate officials by posting photos, videos, comments and messages. Weibo has some 350 million users, and China's leaders are torn between appreciating Weibo's capability to gauge public opinion and resisting public scrutiny, reports Magistad. The microblog tool has opened a new battleground among Chinese authorities, internet companies and citizens - all testing the other's boundaries and resolve to criticize, censor and self-censor. Weibo has become the voice of millions of Chinese, stepping up to offer suggestions, some impulsive and others more organized, on their society's many challenges. Government officials are finding that rapid, reasonable response to valid criticisms is better received than censorship.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/how-weibo-changing-china> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#6

Older Americans Have Been Highly Resistant to Medicare Changes. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. August 13, 2012.

Older Americans are wary of changes to Medicare. Compared with younger people, they are more positive about the way the program operates, less apt to think that changes are needed and far less disposed towards Paul Ryan's proposal to reshape Medicare.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/2012/08/13/older-americans-have-been-highly-resistant-to-medicare-changes/> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#7

Open For Business: How Immigrants Are Driving Small Business Creation In The United States. Partnership for a New American Economy. August 14, 2012.

The report shows that immigrants are becoming increasingly likely to start a business - responsible for 28 percent of new U.S. businesses in 2011, as the rate of new business generation among the native-born declines.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.renewoureconomy.org/sites/all/themes/pnae/openforbusiness.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages, 2.09 MB].

Item#8

US Economy - Muscular or Obese? YaleGlobal. David Dapice. August 16, 2012.

The U.S., with great potential for economic growth, still could rescue the dragging global economy, the country's energy development, agricultural output, steady labor force, and education programs all offer promise. But the U.S. has immediate challenges, argues Dapice, including rising inequality and high youth unemployment rates. Young workers often bring innovations to workplaces, and without them, quality and skills of the labor force could suffer. Inequality, lopsided government spending and heavy borrowing, and delayed infrastructure maintenance pit rich against poor and young against old. Politicians fail to enact regulations or reforms, spurred by a few wealthy industries and political donors willing to invest millions to pursue their narrow interests, says the author.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/us-economy-muscular-or-obese> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

The U.S.-Japan Alliance: Anchoring Stability in Asia. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Richard L. Armitage and Joseph S. Nye, Jr. August 15, 2012.

The report on the U.S.-Japan alliance comes at a time of drift in the relationship. As leaders in both the United States and Japan face a myriad of other challenges, the health and welfare of one of the world's most important alliances is endangered. Although the arduous efforts of Assistant Secretary of State Kurt Campbell and his colleagues in both governments have largely kept the alliance stable, today's challenges and opportunities in the region and beyond demand more. Together, we face the re-rise of China and its attendant uncertainties, North Korea with its nuclear capabilities and hostile intentions, and the promise of Asia's dynamism. Elsewhere, there are the many challenges of a globalized world and an increasingly complex security environment. A stronger and more equal alliance is required to adequately address these and other great issues of the day.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/120810_Armitage_USJapanAlliance_Web.pdf [PDF format, 32 pages, 1.82 MB].

Item#10

USA Youth Votes! The 2012 U.S. Elections. International Information Program, U.S. Department of State. August 17, 2012.

The issue explores the Millennial Generation's engagement in the electoral process and outlines their expectations for the 2012 elections. Contents include a Facebook debate between young Democratic and Republican activists, blogs by campaign volunteers, and a cartoon strip on the youngest member of U.S. Congress.

http://photos.state.gov/libraries/amgov/30145/publications-english/EJ_YouthVotes2012_English.pdf
[PDF format, 24 pages, 9.63 MB].

Item#11

Wasted: How America Is Losing Up to 40 Percent of Its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill. Natural Resources Defense Council. August 21, 2012.

The report analyzes the latest case studies and government data on the causes and extent of food losses at every level of the U.S. food supply chain. It also provides examples and recommendations for reducing this waste.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.nrdc.org/food/files/wasted-food-IP.pdf> [PDF format, 26 pages, 1.09 MB].

Item#12

What Is Global Health Security and Why Does It Matter? Center for Strategic & International Studies. Rebecca Miller and Scott F. Dowell. August 21, 2012.

Leaders in the U.S. government and others around the world increasingly recognize the importance of investing in global health security. Quality public health systems, including effective and adequate laboratories, information systems, and human resources to conduct disease surveillance and epidemiological analyses, and effective response strategies can protect Americans and persons around the world from both predictable and unforeseen emerging health threats that can quickly cross populations and borders. Work by the U.S. and its partners in global health security often draws minimal attention from the general public, especially during lulls in the perceived threat of emerging infectious diseases and man-made pathogens. This can and will change suddenly, when a serious outbreak occurs that triggers intense media attention and an international scramble to mobilize. This cycle makes it difficult to sustain adequate support to accomplish global health security mandates.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/120816_Miller_InvestingSaferUS_Web.pdf [PDF format, 16 pages, 48 KB].